



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 2
819 Depot Avenue / Dixon, Illinois / 61021-3500
Telephone 815/284-2271

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
Studies and Plans
FAU 5822
Milan Beltway Extension
Rock Island County

May 1, 1997

REPLACE WITH 1998
LETTER WHEN RECEIVED

Mr. James H. Blanchar, P.E.
Chief, Operations Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
Post Office Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. Blanchar:

We are writing to re-confirm your agency as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the above EIS for this project. This project proposes to extend the existing Milan Beltway north from its current terminus at Airport Road in Milan as a freeway, with interchanges at both Airport Road and relocated Blackhawk Road/52nd Avenue at the boundary of Rock Island and Moline (see attached map). As discussed with Mr. John Betker of your staff at the last Bi-Monthly Meeting, this project would cause the filling in of regulatory wetlands on both sides of the Rock River. Since it has been over three years since this job has had significant ecological review, per current regulations our Department is arranging for a re-delineation of the wetlands in this corridor by the Illinois Natural History Survey. Thus, we will be in a position to update the findings of your February 15, 1991 letter (see attached).

After that is done, we will forward you an update of the draft wetland concept plan reviewed by Mr. Betker at that meeting. As we anticipate this project could have 20 acres of wetland impact, major mitigation will be required. We also now wish to confirm that your agency will be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the required EIS for this project. Your agency has been involved in the joint NEPA/404 Permit process for this project, and by being a cooperating agency, your agency can efficiently complete the environmental process for this project.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Larry Hill in our District 2 office (815/284-5450).

Sincerely,

William D. Ost
District Engineer

LEB

By: Larry E. Reed
Engineer of Program Development

Attachment
ENV/LH-0525/af

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

4900 38th Ave
Suite 3A
Moline, IL 61265

September 23, 1997

Cassandra Rodgers
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways/District 2
819 Depot Avenue
Dixon, IL 61021-2271

Dear Ms. Rodgers:

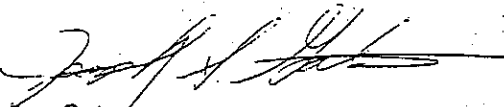
I have reviewed your department's request for identifying areas of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) wetland determination responsibility that may be impacted by the Milan Beltway Extension project. Attached are copies of the maps that you provided with your request.

Basically, NRCS wetland determination responsibilities include all agricultural land and small areas of adjacent non agricultural land. NRCS also has responsibility for all land, agricultural and non agricultural, owned by USDA program participants. The only area that appears to be outside NRCS responsibility is F8.

All areas on the attached maps have been reviewed using the latest off site mapping conventions. They have also been field reviewed with the US Fish and Wildlife as part of the Rock River Wetlands Special Area Management Plan project. F1, F2, F3, F13, and F14 have had on site investigations to verify hydric soils. F6 and part of F8 have been recently converted.

I hope this information is helpful in completing your environmental studies. If you need more information, please call me at (309)793-5840.

Sincerely,



Joe Gates
District Conservationist

RECEIVED DISTRICT 2	TO	FROM	NOTED	ACT	FILE
		DISTRICT ENGINEER			
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Sign-In Sheet

NEPA/404 MERGER MEETING

September 29, 1997

Name	Organization	Telephone No.	Fax No.
KEVIN KELL	LOUIS BERGER ASSOC., Inc.	(312) 663-4141	(312) 341-5685
PAUL RIGGERS	JDQ	217 824-4534	217 529-8279
Math Marshall	Louis Berger	217 744 0603	
Steve Homan	IDNR	217 785-5560	
Joe Catalano	LOUIS BERGER ASSOC.	312-663-4141	312-341-5685
VARGHESE KURIEN	EPA, Springfield	217/782-0610	217/782-9891
Gregoria Kilduff	IDOT - D-2	815/284-5455	
Gregoria Kilduff	IDH D2	815-284-5450	
Mike McMillan	USEPA	312/886-7342	312/353-5374
Michael Buns	IDOT - Springfield	217-782-7077	217-524-9356
JOHN BETKER	CORPS - Rock Is	309 784-5380	5191
Charles Perino	BDE-IDOT	217 785-2130	
JOHN WEGMEYER	IDOT Dist 2	815-284-5351	815-284-5903
PAUL TUFTS	FHWA	708-283-3540	708-283-3500
SERIN PARK	FHWA	217-492-4626	217-492-4621
Wayne Fischer	USFWS	(309) 793-5800	309-793-5804
Barbara Stevens	IDOT - BDE	217 785 4245	
CINDY PARKER	IDOT - BDE	217 785 2833	
Kathy Ames	IDOT - BDE	(217) 785-0203	217-524-0989
Ken Ness	Louis Berger Assoc.		
Deann Johnson	FHWA	217-492-4625	217-492-4621
Butch Wardelich	"	" " - 4622	"
Kieff Hornschmayer	"	" " - 4620	"

Sign-In Sheet
NEPA/404 MERGER MEETING
September 29, 1997

[illegible]

NEPA/404 COORDINATION MEETING

September 29, 1997

MILAN BELTWAY EXTENSION

Selected Alternative Presentation of 404 Impacts

Mr. Hill summarized the purpose and need for the project as previously discussed and documented. He demonstrated there is only one feasible corridor meeting the project's purpose and need. He summarized how the study of this project was an environmental commitment that eliminated four-lane construction through Black Hawk State Historic Site. He discussed centerline alternatives and stated that the Department had chosen the one requested by biological resource agencies at an on-site scoping meeting that would minimize forest and flood plain forest impact.

He stated that mass transit carried a small percentage of trips and was not an alternative to project construction. He noted that an at-grade intersection could not provide capacity for the intersection of 52nd Avenue/Black Hawk Road and could not physically be built at Airport Road due to the need to pass above I-280 by grade-separation.

He discussed review of a compressed diamond by the consultant, stating these were unacceptable due to completely inadequate left-turn lane storage and their tendency to gridlock each cycle of traffic signals when left-turn capacity was exceeded. They have been used only in highly urbanized areas with adjoining street grids or major buildings that would be prohibitive to relocate, but were not acceptable in suburban areas when interchange capacity could not be achieved.

He discussed standard and off-set diamond interchanges, stating the off-set diamond minimizes displacement at the Airport Road site, but forces the major movement through a left-turn movement. At 52nd Avenue, the major movement was also a left-turn movement and displaced a medical center. He then discussed a combination of the offset diamond and par-clo interchange that:

1. Minimizes required right-of-way,
2. Puts the major turn movement for both interchanges as a free-flow right-turn, and
3. Eliminates impact on both a proposed mitigation site and medical center.

Mr. Hill stated these final combination interchanges were the Department's preferred alternates at both Airport Road and 52nd Avenue/Blackhawk Road.

Mr. Hill presented the proposed bridge, stating it is of standard design with either 40 or 50 meter spans that will utilize cofferdams during construction to protect the river from the affects of erosion. He stated a commitment will be made to remove all temporary construction (haul roads, tramways, causeways, and cofferdams) at the end of the construction period. He then stated that the District wished to cross the pond with fill instead of a bridge due to a cost savings (a cost half that of a bridge), no long-term maintenance, and no potential icing of a deck.

Dr. Rodgers stated that the only two potential T&E Species listed in the IDNR database were the River Otter and Higgin's Eye Pearly Mussel. The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) had conducted fish, mussel, otter, and avian surveys in the project corridor for the Department. No evidence of the otter and only marginally suitable habitat was found in the project corridor. Therefore, the INHS concluded that this project would not impact the river otter. No threatened or endangered fish were found in the project corridor, and evidence of only one species (Lake Sturgeon) of the nine fish species of special concern were recovered about 1.2 km downstream of the project in 1992. With proper siltation control, the INHS expects no adverse impact to T&E fish species of the Rock River from this project.

Dr. Rodgers reported that there has been records from 1926-1995 of eight mussel species listed as Federal Endangered, Federal Candidate, or State Threatened or Endangered. No live or fresh dead shells of six of these species have been found along this portion of the Rock River in over 50 years; all are presumed extirpated from the Rock River Drainage area. The Butterfly Mussel was last collected below the Steel Dam (approximately 1.2 km downstream from the project) in 1988, and is presumed still present in the Rock River.

The latest INHS field survey dated September 5, 1995, found live members of five species and shells from ten other species, none of which were of the eight species of special concern. No mussel beds were located, leading INHS to conclude the fresh water mussel population at this site is very poor. Siltation control will be instituted at this project to ensure increased siltation will not adversely affect mussels present at this site and in the large beds located 1.2 km downstream.

The avian survey indicated that there was potential habitat for 6 species of special concern (State & Federal T&E) listed in Rock Island County. The bridge site was surveyed by INHS during four census seasons, resulting in 646 birds of 63 species being noted, including representatives from three Illinois Endangered (one of these is also Federally Endangered) and three Illinois Threatened species. None of these latter sightings were during the breeding season. Dr. Rodgers stated the INHS concluded that none of their sightings were indicative of the presence of important habitat for any of these listed species; therefore, no State or Federal Threatened or Endangered bird species would be affected by this project.

Mr. Hamer requested that we schedule tree removal during the fall and winter seasons so as to not impact migratory birds during the nesting season. District 2 personnel stated that we would make this commitment.

Dr. Rodgers indicated that the project would impact 9.52 acres of non-farm wetland (4.15 Forested Palustrine and 5.37 Palustrine Emergent) as determined by INHS and 7.73 acres of farmed wetland as determined by Rock Island County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). However, the pond, which is an old borrow site from I-280, was not delineated as a wetland by INHS. She stated that these estimates are preliminary in that the Corps of Engineers had just begun their review. As avoidance is not possible, minimization of impact has been achieved by picking the location shown, since alignments on either side impact greater acreage of wetlands. Also, the bridge has been extended an additional 106 m north to span the flood plain and wetlands, and 3:1 foreslopes will be used instead of the preferred 4:1 to decrease the amount of fill placed in the wetlands.

Dr. Rodgers noted the proposed mitigation site was to be developed as a shopping center until purchased by the Department. She noted that 12.32 acres of this proposed mitigation site is farmed wetland, Mr. Hill requested full credit for use of this site, since it is only cropland now

and would otherwise have been a shopping center. Dr. Rodgers also noted 1-2 acres of mitigation will be on-site by removal of temporary causeways and tramways and then revegetation.

Mr. Betker commented that the pond may still require mitigation as Waters of the United States. After discussion, he stated that although he wished for a more thorough wetland delineation procedure by INHS, he would concur with the wetland delineations. Dr. Perino stated that he did not concur in the final tabulated impact, in that he wished the District to appeal the farmed wetland determinations by the Rock Island County NRCS office.

Mr. McMullen, in responding to Dr. Perino, stated that he did not feel that any credit could be allowed for wetland creation on land NRCS has determined is existing farmed wetland. Mr. Betker indicated the Corps may be willing to grant partial credit for such restoration. Mr. Hill noted a developer had prepared a site plan and applied for a permit to develop this site as a shopping center and that by merely buying it the Department had taken a step toward saving it from its intending transformation to a commercial property.

In response to a question, Mr. Hill stated that there is evidence of municipal waste having been dumped in the borrow pond in the 1960s prior to the time environmental controls were implemented in the State to ban such practices. He stated that the site is not a CERCLIS site and is not known to contain hazardous waste. He stated that, with final IEPA concurrence, the District would like to merely fill over the waste in place, perhaps with a surcharge to help achieve final settlement. Mr. Kurien requested from the District the name of the IEPA contact person who had coordinated this when IDOT achieved clearance for use of this site. Mr. Hill stated that the Department will not buy right-of-way through the pond, but will build it by agreement since this property is already owned by the City of Milan.

After further review, all agencies in attendance concurred in the range of alternatives considered and the selected alternative.

ENV/LH-0616/af

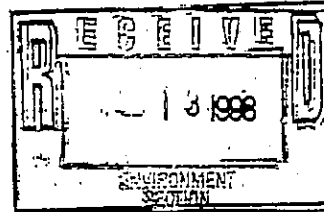
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

4900 38th Ave
Suite 3A
Moline, IL 61265

February 9, 1998

William T. Sunley, P.E.
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764



Dear Mr. Sunley:

As requested in your letter dated December 15, 1997, I have completed certified wetland determinations on the areas outlined in your letter. Please refer to the attached map. Some of the "farmed wetland" boundaries have been changed slightly. Steve Zwicker, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, and I visited the fields south of the Rock River on October 16, 1997 and I visited the fields north of the Rock River on December 9, 1997 to document the location of the "farmed wetlands" in question. The attached wetland determination maps are the results of our field visits. Please note the boundary changes on the areas identified as F-1 and F-2.

The difference in wetland determinations made by the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and those made by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is due to the use of the 1987 US Army Corps. of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual by INHS to make wetland determinations on cropland. The appropriate wetland jurisdictional manual for wetland delineation on cropland is the National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM), Third Edition, Amendment 2, November 1996. An interagency agreement signed in January 1994, clarified federal and state government's roles and responsibilities regarding wetland issues in Illinois. The agreement developed cooperatively by the NRCS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Army Corps. of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency outlines administrative procedures, reference manuals, prioritizing techniques, client bases, and terms and definitions. The net result pertinent to this case is that "farmed wetlands" are recognized under the NFSAM.

I hope this clarifies the differences in wetland determinations made by the two agencies. If you have any questions, please contact me at (309)793-5840.

Sincerely,

Joe Gates
District Conservationist

cc: Thomas E. Beling, Earl Beling Est.
Kent George, QC Airport
Mark Schwiebert, City of Rock Island
Marlyn Schafer, Resource Conservationist

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Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: File

From: Cassandra Rodgers *Cassandra Rodgers*

Subject: Wetland Determinations

Date: May 22, 1998

FAU Route 5822 (Milan Beltway Extension)
Section 1-3
Milan Beltway Extension
Rock Island County
P-92-086-84

John Betker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, telephoned me today in response to our May 15, 1998, letter. He said that he concurs with the determinations made for the farmed wetlands by Joe Gates, NCRS. He also concurred with the non-farmed wetland delineation's made by INHS. These delineation's were submitted to him in letters dated August 15, 1997, and September 29, 1997.

He said that he agreed with the determination that the old borrow pond would not be classified as a wetland, but as "Waters of the United States". He also said we will be required to mitigate the value of this pond. He suggested we deepen a proposed palustrine emergent area to have standing water as mitigation. He also said we could get enhancement credit for restoring the farmed wetland in our proposed mitigation site (south of the Rock River).

cr-0021

c: Dr. Charles Perino, Attn.: Tom Brooks



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 2
819 Depot Avenue / Dixon, Illinois / 61021-3500
Telephone 815/284-2271

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Studies and Plans
FAU Route 5822
Section 1-3
Milan Beltway Extension
Rock Island County

July 10, 1998

Mr. William Nelson, Director
Rock Island Park District
1320 - 24th Street
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Dear Mr. Nelson:

We have reviewed the narrow (31.94 feet) strip of property owned by the Rock Island Park District that extends northerly out of Ben Williamson Park up to IL 5. This strip of land was platted as an access corridor to IL 5 when the parcel was privately owned. This strip partially contains a drainage ditch to carry run-off from north of IL 5. When the parcel was acquired for the park, the access strip was also incorporated into the park. Therefore, the 31.94 ft. x 1170.92 ft. strip, although in the park holdings, is an unutilized access strip and is not used for any recreational functions associated with Ben Williamson Park.

If you have any questions, please call Larry Hill in our Dixon office (815/284-5450).

Sincerely,

William D. Ost
District Engineer

Larry E. Reed

By: Larry E. Reed
Engineer of Program Development

ENV/LH-0775/at

Concur and attest to the above:

William Nelson
William Nelson
Director, Rock Island Park District

7/15/98
(Date)